

USING PESTICIDES AROUND WATER & WETLANDS



Despite the numerous pesticides labeled for use in lakes and ponds, most licensed pesticide applicators understand that applying pesticides to public waters requires a permit from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). What many applicators find less clear is the term "public waters." What exactly does that include? And what about wetlands?

Recently the BPC staff sought to unscramble this terminology with the Maine DEP, and here's what we found out:

- ▶ Public water (waters of the state) are broadly defined and include the obvious, such as lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and marine waters, plus a few less obvious ones such as bogs, marshes, other wetlands and groundwater.

- ▶ Many people assume any manmade pond or one contained entirely within the boundaries of a private property is not a public water, but that's not necessarily true. Any pond with an inlet or outlet at any time of year is a public water.
- ▶ Wetlands include any area saturated sufficiently to support predominately wetland vegetation such as sedges, rushes, alders, cranberries, tamarack or black willow.

Applying pesticides to wetlands requires a DEP permit except for a few specific circumstances:

- ▶ carefully targeted applications of aquatic formulations of glyphosate for control of small areas of purple loosestrife at times when there is no standing water in the vicinity
- ▶ carefully targeted herbicide applications along rights-of-way at times when there is no standing water in the vicinity

In either instance, applications to wetlands must be made

- ▶ during low wind conditions
- ▶ when there is no rainfall predicted within 24-hours
- ▶ to individual plants only
- ▶ in a manner that minimizes drift and effects on non-target species

No other pesticide applications may be made to wetlands without a permit from the DEP.

DOING THE JOB RIGHT STARTS WITH BEING IN THE RIGHT PLACE

Before you make a scheduled application, double check that you have the right address and that the property owner definitely wants you to apply a pesticide.

These steps may seem like common sense, but failing to take them result in complaints phoned in to the BPC. We view these as very serious violations that will cost you money in fines as well as bad publicity.

Most of the reported cases occur when a technician is trying to find a customers property for the first time.

"It's not like delivering flowers to the wrong address," warned BPC Compliance Chief Henry Jennings. "People are more likely to be upset and you could end

TIPS TO AVOID MISTAKES

- ▶▶ Always have a written contract. It helps avoid misunderstandings with customers.
- ▶▶ Verify the street "surname" (road, street, avenue, lane, etc.). Maple Avenue isn't Maple Street.
- ▶▶ Beware of roads without street signs and houses without numbers. Don't rely on adjacent numbered houses to determine right address. House numbering often skips in sequence (i.e., 16, 24, 28).
- ▶▶ Use a fail proof technique like identifying customers by their electric meter number.

up at the home of a chemically sensitive person."

The bottom line: the burden of proof is on the applicator to make sure he/she's on same page as the property owner.

CREDIT MEETING CALENDAR

▶ WWW.THINKFIRSTSPRAYLAST.ORG FOR THE LATEST

APR 12

COMMON FORESTRY INSECTS AND DISEASES and CHRISTMAS TREE IPM
St. John Valley Tech Center, Frenchville, ME.
Dee Potter, 800-287-1421. 2 credits.

APR 19

AIB PEST MANAGEMENT FOR FOOD PLANTS
Chicago, IL. Kerry Scott, 1-800-633-5137.
18 credits.

APR 20

SCHOOL IPM WORKSHOP
South Portland, Augusta, Bangor, Caribou.
Kathy Murray, 207-287-7616. 2 credits.

APR 21

CONSERVATION EXPO (NUMEROUS AGRICULTURAL AND CONSERVATION TOPICS)
University of Maine, Farmington, ME.
207-778-4279. 1 credit each.

APR 24

MOFGA ORCHARDING WORKSHOP-SPRING CARE
Teltane Farm and Orchard, Monroe, ME.
207-568-4142. 1 credit.

MAY 7

THE REALITIES OF ORGANIC LAWN & LANDSCAPE CARE, ONSITE PLANTING & PRUNING DEMO
Hopkinton, MA. 413-545-0895. 2 credits.

MAY 15

MOFGA ORCHARDING WORKSHOP-LATE SPRING & EARLY SUMMER CARE
MOFGA's Common Ground, Unity, ME.
207-568-4142. 4 credits.

JUN 10

THE REALITIES OF ORGANIC LAWN & LANDSCAPE CARE, IPM-SCOUTING FOR PESTS AND PROBLEMS OF TURF AND WOOD ORNAMENTALS
Essex Ag School, Danvers, MA. 413-545-0895.
2 credits.

JUL 17

MOFGA ORCHARDING WORKSHOP-SUMMER CARE
Lakeside Orchard, Manchester, ME.
207-568-4142. 4 credits.

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DRIVEWAYS: ROADS TO POLLUTION



New research from University of Wisconsin concludes thick or dense turf is not the major source of polluted storm water runoff. The culprit? Hard surfaces like driveways and sidewalks and thin, compacted turf.

Do your part in protecting watersheds. Avoid misapplication to rainproof surfaces:

- ▶▶ use drop spreaders
- ▶▶ sweep up misapplications
- ▶▶ overseed thin areas
- ▶▶ core aerate compacted soil or heavily thatched lawns

NON-VOLATILE

A number of pest management companies and school officials asked the BPC which products were considered non-volatile and therefore exempt from the five-day notification requirements in Chapter 27-Standards for Pesticide Application and Public Notification in Schools.

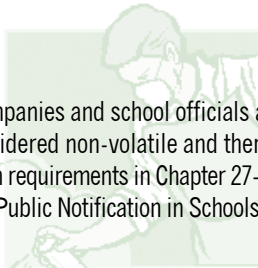
In November, the Board concluded:

/non-vol a tile/ : a vapor pressure of less than 10 Pascals [0.75 millimeters of mercury] at 25 degrees Centigrade (77 degrees Fahrenheit)

For those of you that didn't ace organic chemistry, here's the gist:

exempt: commonly used active ingredients in bait, gel or granular formulations

not exempt: commonly used active ingredients in liquid or aerosol formulations containing petroleum solvents or propellants



VIOLATIONS

Common commercial applicator violations:

- ▶ forgetting to renew license
- ▶ forgetting to send in the annual summary report
- ▶ operator still applying even though the master's license has expired
- ▶ failing to keep up-to-date records and having them available when an inspector visits
- ▶ forgetting to notify people on the registry
- ▶ not following the label precautions for food handling establishments
- ▶ not wearing the Personal Protective Equipment required by the label
- ▶ refilling spray tanks within 50 feet of a surface water
- ▶ forgetting to post outdoor turf, ornamental or perimeter applications before the treatment

DYLOX

REMINDER: Dylox (trichlorfon) continues to be classified as a limited use pesticide in Maine. In other states Dylox may be considered a general use pesticide, but here in Maine an applicator's license and permit is required to purchase or apply trichlorfon products.

DID YOU KNOW?

A "crack and crevice" treatment does not mean spraying a narrow strip of chemical along the baseboard.

Performing this type of treatment means applying pesticides by placing an *injector tip* inside the wall void or space between the walls and cabinets or other small spaces that are out of the reach of pets and children.

PRESPORT STD
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